

DEVELOPING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Action	Suggestions
Educate yourself and your family.	Talk to your local emergency management agencies and the American Red Cross chapter about : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Types of disasters likely to affect the community and how to prepare for them ▪Community warning systems and evacuation plans ▪Animal care during and after a disaster ▪Taking responsibility for elderly and disabled persons ▪Disaster plans at work places, schools, daycare centers, or other places where your family spends time
	Be sure you have adequate insurance coverage.
	Conduct a home hazard hunt to identify anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire.
	Take a Red Cross first-aid and CPR class.
Create a family plan and practice it.	Identify “safe rooms” or shelter areas for earthquakes and violent weather.
	Determine the best escape routes out of the safe rooms/shelter areas.
	Pick two places to meet in case you cannot return to your home—one spot just outside your home and another outside the neighborhood.
	Create a contact list.
	Identify an out-of-state relative or friend as a family contact in case family members are in separate locations at the time of disaster. Be sure work and school offices have this number on file.
	Discuss what to do in an evacuation and how to care for your pets.
	Teach young children how and when to dial 911 and what to say.
	Post all emergency numbers by every phone.
	Hold fire and emergency evacuation drills periodically (every six months) with all members of the family.
	Quiz family members periodically (children every 6 months) on procedures and contact information.
	Store originals of important family papers in a safe deposit box.
Be a good neighbor.	Meet with neighbors to plan how to work together in case of emergency.
	Know neighbors special needs or skills such as medical, technical, etc.
	Make plans for each other’s children in case a parent is not available/able to get home.
Store adequate supplies.	Store in pest-free container in an accessible location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water for 3-5 days, 1 gallon/person/day. Mark date and replace every 3 months • Non-perishable foods for 3-5 days including for pets. Replace every 6 months. • Manual can opener

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashlights and batteries • Extra prescription glasses/contacts and cleaning solution • Battery operated t.v./radio and extra batteries • Prescription drugs that are essential • First aid kit • Extra set car keys • Blanket/sleeping bag 1/person • Information of all critical medical devices • Small amount of cash and a credit card • Toys, games, books • Battery charger for cell phone • Change of clothes/footwear 1/person • Special need items (infant, elderly, chronica illness, etc)
Utilities	<p>Ensure all adults able to locate and turn off water, gas, electric.</p> <p>Install smoke detectors on each floor and near bedrooms, change batteries every 6 months.</p> <p>Ensure all family members able to locate and use fire extinguisher. Replace/recharge as indicated by manufacturer.</p>
Create family exit plan and evacuation box.	<p>Post floor plan with marked exits in all rooms.</p> <p>Create 'grab and go' evacuation box in waterproof container:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small amount cash • Irreplaceable photos/negatives • Updated annually inventory of valuable possessions • Insurance phone numbers and policy numbers • Copies of important family documents and contact list • Copies/list of prescriptions • Copies of important legal documents (originals in safe deposit box)